

B1 an exhaust pipe extending within said muffler housing and being displaced relative to the interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween, said cylindrical case being mounted on said exhaust pipe at a distal end thereof; and

a catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said cylindrical case, said cylindrical case and said honeycomb structure having a reduced linear expansion during warm up and use.

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B2 4. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

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B3 6. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 1, and further including a catalyst layer of a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

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7. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

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Please ~~cancel~~ claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and add the subject matter to claim 8 as follows

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8. (Twice Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure having a catalyst layer formed thereon, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in a flow direction through the honeycomb structure;

B4 a case covering an outer surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is in the range of  $0.30 \text{ wt\%} \leq \text{Mo} \leq 2.50 \text{ wt\%}$ ;

a muffler housing, said case being disposed within said muffler housing and being displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween;

an exhaust pipe extending within said muffler housing and being displaced relative to the interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween, said case being mounted on said exhaust pipe at a distal end thereof; and

B4 a catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said case, said case and said honeycomb structure having a reduced linear expansion during warm up and use.

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B5 11. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

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B6 13. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

14. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

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Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and add the subject matter to claim 15 as follows

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15. (Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:  
a honeycomb structure, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in an axial direction thereof;

a case covering an outer peripheral surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is 1.2 wt%;

B7 a muffler housing, said case being disposed within said muffler housing and being displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween;

an exhaust pipe extending within said muffler housing and being displaced relative to the interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween, said case being mounted on said exhaust pipe at a distal end thereof; and

a catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said case, said case and said honeycomb structure having a reduced linear expansion during warm up and use.

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17. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 15, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

B8 18. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 15, and further including a catalyst layer of a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

19. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 18, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

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Please ~~cancel~~ claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and add the subject matter to claim 20 as follows

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20. (Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure having a catalyst layer formed thereon, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in a flow direction through the honeycomb structure;

a case covering an outer surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is 1.20wt%;

B9 a muffler housing, said case being disposed within said muffler housing and being displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween;

an exhaust pipe extending within said muffler housing and being displaced relative to the interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween, said case being mounted on said exhaust pipe at a distal end thereof; and

a catalyst layer being formed on exposed surfaces of said honeycomb structure and on an interior surface of said case, said case and said honeycomb structure having a reduced linear expansion during warm up and use.

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B10 22. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

23. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

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24. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 23, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

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